

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

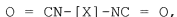
1. (Currently amended) A collagen free cosmetic preparation, comprising swollen aqueous solutions of chitosans cross-linked to ~~and~~ β -(1,3) glucans ~~cross-linked~~ with diisocyanates, dialdehydes or a combination thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a collagen free cosmetic preparation ~~preparations of claim 1~~, comprising admixing a swollen aqueous solution of chitosans with an aqueous solution of β -(1,3) glucans, adding a cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of diisocyanates and dialdehydes, and removing water from the mixture.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein chitosans with molecular weights in the area from 10,000 to 1,200,000 Daltons are used.

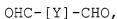
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein water soluble β -(1,3) glucans are utilized which are substantially free from β -(1,6) linkages.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein diisocyanates with the formula (I)



in which X represents a linear, branched, naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, are utilized.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein dialdehydes with the formula (II)



in which Y represents a linear, branched, naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, are utilized.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the cross-linking agents are selected from the group consisting of hexamethylene diisocyanate and glutaric dialdehyde.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein polyols are added to the mixture and are selected from the group consisting of glycerol, alkylene glycols, oligoglycerol mixtures of technical quality, methylol compounds, low alkyl glucosides, sugar alcohols, sugars and amino sugars.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein natural and/or synthetic fibers are added to the mixture.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the water is removed from the mixture by freeze-drying.

11. (Canceled)